(c) The aforesaid provision was made in the Act with a view to ensure that the animals in the zoos get conditions congenial to their physcal and mental health.

(d) Central Government has not given any assistance mobile zoos.

Insurgency in Tripura

*225. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARAYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rebels kill 24 in Tripura" appearing in 'Statesman', dated February 17,1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the State Government has proved a failure in tackling the situation effectively;

(d) whether the Central Government have taken the matter seriously;

(e) if so, the steps taken to control the situation in the State; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Both the State and Central Governments have, in close coordination, taken several steps which, interalia, include induction of adequate number of Central Para-Military Forces and Army units, improved coordination and sharing of intelligence, declaration of the worst affected areas as disturbed areas, strengthening/modernisation of the State Police Force and sanction of Special Central Financial Assistance.

[Translation]

Production of Groundnut

*228. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated total production of groundnut in the country during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been decline in the production of groundnut during 1995-96 in some States;

(c) if so, the names of such States and the extent to which it has declined as compared to 1994-95;

(d) the reasons for decline; and

(e) the special steps taken by the Government to boost the production of groundnut?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The estimated data on the production of groundnut in the country for Rabi 1996-97 season have not yet become available. However, the State-wise production of groundnut during Kharif 1996-97 season is given in the Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The decline in production has been to the extent of 2.4 Lakh Tonnes, primarily due to less production in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during 1995-96. A comparative statement of estimates of production of groundnut during 1994-95 and 1995-96 showing the decline in production in some States over the year 1994-95 is given in the Statement-II.

(d) This shortfall in the production of groundnut was due to the vagaries of weather. The Monsoon was delayed which affected the sowing operations in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa. A long dry spell followed causing moisture stress affecting the production.

(e) In order to boost the production of groundnut including other oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in 22 States. Under the programme financial assistance is being provided by way of subsidies for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/ pyrites, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, farmer's training, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology.

Statement-I

State-wise Advance Estimates of Production of Kharif 1996-97 season of Groundnut

('000 Tonnes)

State	Kharif 1996-97
Andhra Pradesh	1665.0
Bihar	4.0
Gujarat	2159.0
Haryana	3.0
Karnataka	955.0
Kerala	12.0
Madhya Pradesh	310.0
Maharashtra	506.0
Orissa	39.0
Punjab	12.0
Rajasthan	247.0
Tamil Nadu	1100.0
Uttar Pradesh	110.0
Others	5.0
All India	7127.0